



# The Caledonia Argus

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Wednesday, March 31, 2021

## County board OK's contracts with unions, considers airport improvements

By Craig Moorhead  
The Caledonia Argus

Houston County commissioners approved a pair of retroactive labor agreements on Tuesday, March 23.

The first was with Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc., Local 60, while the second was with the Minnesota Association of Professional Employees.

Both contracts run from January 1, 2021 through the end of 2023. And both pacts include a 2.5 percent wage increase for 2021, while wage adjustments for 2022 and 2023 remain open for negotiation.

### COVID update

John Pugleasa, Houston County director of Public Health, reported on the COVID-19 pandemic. While no cases involving variants have yet been detected in Houston County, La Crosse County has already had at least one of those show up, he said.

"I think we can celebrate success right now with vaccination clinics, but our effort isn't over, and it's really not even close to over," the director said. "We're going to be doing vaccinations for quite some time. What we keep hearing, consistently, from the Minnesota Department of Health is that it's a race against variants. It's not

uncommon for viruses to mutate and come up with variant versions. The degree to which we have a higher percentage of our population that's vaccinated, is really the first line of defense against those variants."

Minnesota has seen only a limited supply of the Johnson and Johnson vaccine arrive, but Houston County Public Health has signaled "a willingness to accept that vaccine," public health supervisor Heather Myhre stated. "We will take that when they have that supply."

Myhre said she expects a continued supply of Moderna vaccine for local clinics, but the number of doses will likely vary according to "the tier that we're in, and how far along we are in that percentage of the population."

Houston County is still in the top 10 of Minnesota counties as far as COVID-19 vaccination rates, Pugleasa noted.

### Notes and discussions

The board addressed several topics related to the Houston County Airport.

Commissioners approved opening some negotiations with engineering firm Bolton and Menk

### COUNTY BOARD

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Jordan Gerard/The Caledonia Argus

## End of an era: Redwood Cafe demolished

It stood for years on the northside of State Highway 44 and was a local staple to the community, but it came down in just a day. The Redwood Cafe building was demolished on March 24, at about noon. The demolition makes way for ESB Bank in Eitzen to expand its Caledonia location. See more photos on page 2.

## Houston OHV trail series: Opportunity vs. Risk

By Jordan Gerard  
Editor, The Caledonia Argus

There's two sides to each issue and in the case of Houston's proposed OHV trail, it's a matter of economic opportunity versus concern for the environment.

The City of Houston, business owners and local residents seek a new avenue of tourism for the city and southeast Minnesota, as the trail would be the first of its kind in this part of the Driftless Region.

Speaking of the Driftless Region, others wonder if the area will remain just as driftless with the potential addition of the OHV trails. Not to mention the environmental concerns on delicate soils, impacts to wildlife and peacefulness to the city located along the banks of the Root River. Recently, the Houston City

Council took steps to further secure funding for the trails, including a prepared Environmental Assessment Statement (EAS), which was requested by Karen Umphress.

The EAS was required in order for the city to accept a \$150,000 funding grant from Recreational Trails Grant. It was prepared by the clubs interested and/or the city, not the DNR, according to Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Area Supervisor Jess Althoff.

Umphress has been with this project since its inception 12 years ago, City Administrator Michelle Quinn clarified for the Argus, but she is not part of the advisory committee.

Umphress explained she is a trail enthusiast who works with the MN DNR and currently, the City of Houston. She is also a project manager and national expert on

OHV trails.

"I am also advising the MN DNR and City regarding the best management practices for creating a sustainable OHV trail system, helping to secure grants and other funding so the project doesn't cost the people of Houston any money," Umphress said. "... and helping deal with all of the paperwork involved. Our goal is to make this as easy as possible for the City."

She has been part of a nonprofit organization, the National Off Highway Vehicle Conservation Council (NOHVCC) and is also a member of the Twin Cities Trail Riders based in Jordan, Minnesota. NOHVCC is a nonprofit public benefit organization that is primarily funded by the Motorcycle

### HOUSTON OHV

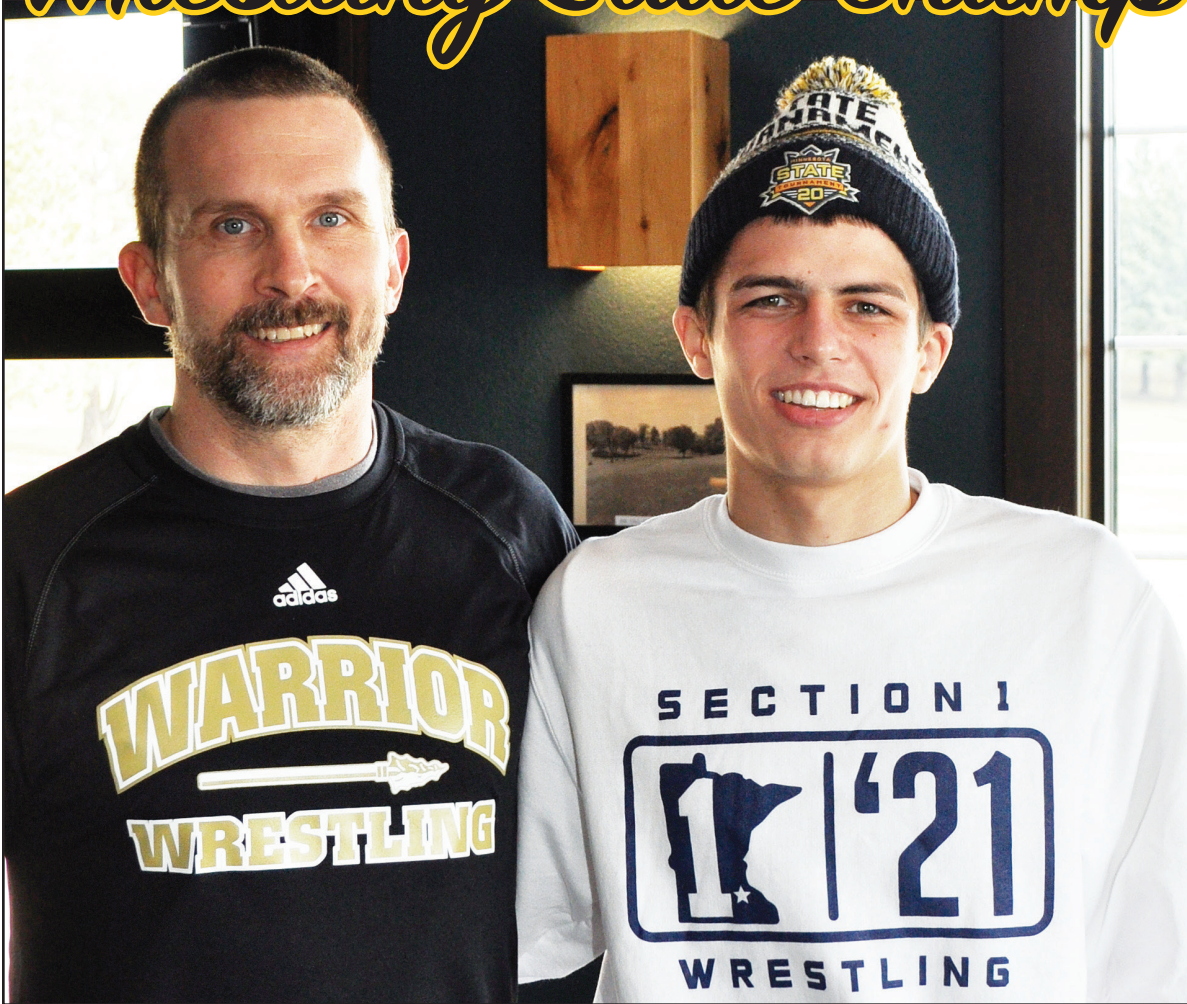
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Jordan Gerard/The Caledonia Argus

The road pictured above is part of South Park in Houston. The general area of the park may be home to an OHV trail system in the future.

## CONGRATULATIONS BRANDON ROSS! Wrestling State Champ



Craig Moorhead/Caledonia Argus

Caledonia/Houston wrestling coach Shay Mahoney with State Champion Brandon Ross, who won the 120 pound Division of Class A on Saturday, March 27.

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### Community

#### Caledonia Council

City raises water, sewer rates

See page 7

#### Illegal dumping

Illegal dumping concerns on Co. Rd. 32

See page 6

### Sports

#### Warriors are going to State!

Warrior boys punch state ticket

See page 16

#### Hurricanes state bound!

Hurricane girls team pulls off first state run

See page 15

### Newspapers in Education

Kids' ads & artwork featured in Newspapers for Education Week

See pages 9-12

### Death Notice

Derald Henry Cordes  
Patricia Jo Yarbrough  
Donavon Olson

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The Caledonia Argus



### HOUSTON OHV

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Industry Council, Specialty Vehicle Institute of America and the Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association, according to its website at www.nohvcc.org. Its purpose is to help establish new OHV clubs and state associations, strengthen existing clubs, improve and promote responsible OHV recreation management and resource protection, among other goals.

Several Minnesota communities have OHV trails that have been a positive economic factor, Umphress said. The best examples are the Iron Range OHV Park in Gilbert in northern Minnesota. This park is similar to Houston's potential park, in the sense that it is located within city limits and there were concerns about potential noise, traffic and other issues.

"After the first weekend of the park operations, almost all of the concerns were put to rest," Umphress said. The City of Gilbert has grown and additional businesses have opened. Neighboring cities like Eveleth, Virginia, Biwabik and Mountain Iron have not seen that growth, but Eveleth and Virginia have created a trail leading to the OHV park.

Umphress added there was no increase in crime or trespassing in the area and sound or noise has not been an issue.

She gave another example of the Appleton OHV park in Swift County, far western Minnesota, that has helped the community survive. After the park opened, a 1,600-bed prison in Swift County closed, resulting in job loss.

Umphress relayed Swift County Commissioner Gary Hendrickx said the reason there was not an economic downturn in the county was due to the OHV park. It brings in riders from across Minnesota,

the Dakotas and Iowa, she added. In fact, the park has been so successful, the county expanded it four times and is looking to do so again.

According to a Feb. 20, 2021 article in the West Central Tribune, "The Swift County Board of Commissioners approved applying for a Federal Recreation Trails Program and Minnesota Trails Association Program grant funds for possible acquisition."

This park is located in a former gravel mine area and current discussions include the possibility of adding 175 acres to the park. Hendrickx said the park saw increased usage during the past year, and that it saw riders coming from greater distances than in previous years, according to the West Central Tribune, based in Willmar, Minnesota.

It's not just the economic opportunity that is appreciated, it's also OHV riders who appreciate areas like Swift County and Gilbert that have allowed OHV trail systems to be created, Umphress noted.

"The OHV community tries to give back to these communities by spending their dollars in the community," Umphress said.

Despite most of the interested clubs and riders being from Rochester and the Twin Cities area, movers and groovers behind the trail have explored the possibility of having local people form a club, and several said they would be interested, she added.

A local club has not been formed yet, as the process for creating a motorized trail system is lengthy. If the trail becomes a reality and construction starts, then a club should be formed.

Local businesses like the Sawmill Inn could benefit from new tourism. At the January meeting, Loken's Sawmill Inn & Suites owner

Eileen Loken said the city should not put "all of its eggs in one basket." Currently, the city boasts being part of the Root River Trail, the International Owl Center, the Houston Nature Center, annual celebration Houston Hoedown, the Mission 66 all-inclusive playground, Root River Triathlon, summer concert series, Houston Hollidazzle and more.

With much of Houston's features concentrated on the outdoors, an OHV trail might seem like a logical choice, but opposers of the trail have expressed several concerns.

The first of which is noise. Over the course of several recent council meetings in 2021, residents have expressed they do not wish to hear OHVs on that hillside.

At the March council meeting, resident Chris Moon said he comes home at night, has peace and quiet and does not want to hear four-wheelers up and down that hill. Rick Fitting echoed those thoughts earlier, and said Houston has a small town feel with peace and quiet.

"I work all week, relax on my back deck. I don't hear motorcycles, I don't hear off-highway vehicles," he said.

A noise study was first conducted by Minneapolis-based firm WSB & Associates on June 3, 2013. However, that was an essential function required in the process of changing the land use to motorized. The study measured noise at three locations on the property.

The study found that decibel levels met the Minnesota State Daytime and Nighttime Standard, with the exception of Site 2, which measured at 50.9 decibels, the

#### HOUSTON OHV

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Jordan Gerard/The Caledonia Argus

The Redwood Cafe had been up for sale and was eventually purchased by ESB Bank next door in order to expand office space. The Caledonia City Council approved setback variances for the lot at its March 23, 2020 meeting and then approved expanded setbacks at its Feb. 22, 2021 meeting.



## PUBLIC RECORD

The following non-confidential traffic and criminal cases were compiled from reports released from the court administrator's office. Ages are given at time of offense.

Continued from March 24 Argus:

**CALEDONIA POLICE DEPT.**  
Leonard Terrell Figgins, 30, Beloit, Wis., speeding, fined \$125, driving without a valid license, fined \$100.  
Dominick James Selck, 27, Onalaska, Wis., speeding, fined \$125, driving after suspension, fined \$200.

**HOKAH POLICE DEPT.**  
Ivy Lynn Dahlquist, 25, Hokah, Minn., speeding, fined \$135, no insurance - driver, fined \$200, failure to display current registration - expired plates, fined \$30.  
Kevin Alan Heintz, 40, Hokah, Minn., driving after suspension, fined \$275, no insurance - owner, fined \$200, failure to obtain new driver license after changing name or address, fined \$20.

**LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPT.**  
Nathan Mark Bratager, 35, La Crescent, Minn., domestic assault, stay of adjudication, continued, probation, fined \$75.  
Brady Jo Brown, 36, West Salem, Wis., theft - take/use/transfer movable property - no consent, 2 days local confinement, probation, fined \$125.  
Tristan Russell Fuchsel, 18,

Hokah, Minn., liquor - consumption by persons under 21, fined \$175.

Reginald Jabbar Highsmith 37, La Crosse, Wis., speeding, fined \$275, fail to stop for steady red arrow signal, fined \$50, owner who is not driver must later produce proof of insurance, fined \$200, driving without a valid license, fined \$100.

Nathan Robert Mysliwicz, 21, La Crosse, Wis., careless driving, 1 day local confinement, fined \$175.

Joseph David Olson, 20, Minnetrista, Minn., speeding, fined \$115.

Jacob John Schultz, 21, La Crescent, Minn., operate vehicle with expired registration, fined \$105.

Joel Peter Thieret, 41, Winona, Minn., DWI, probation, fined \$400.

**SPRING GROVE POLICE DEPT.**  
Humaria Azam, 44, Onalaska, Wis., speeding, fined \$115.  
Robert Joseph Gulbranson, 68, Spring Grove, Minn., unlawful smoking, fined \$110.

Fredy Sagastume Hernandez, 31, Waterloo, Iowa, no driver's license in possession, fined \$95.

Heather Marie Horsfall, 46, Cresco, Iowa, speeding, fined \$115.  
Bryce Peter Oakes Fossum, 31, Spring Grove, Minn., failed to shovel sidewalk, fined \$200.

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Craig Allen Hahn, Caledonia, Minn., snowmobile registration, fined \$125.  
Mark Elroy Nissalke, 45, Hokah,

Minn., trail sticker required to operate of State or Grant in Aid snowmobile trail, fined \$125.

**March 4 - 11**  
**MINN. STATE PATROL**  
Kevin Donald Bakke, 58, Waukon, Iowa, speeding, fined \$115.  
Karla Frances Helke, 42, Hokah, Minn., speeding, fined \$115.  
Jacob Ray Lewis, 36, New Albin, Iowa, speeding, fined \$125.  
Taniel Marie Mathison, 29, Winona, Minn., no insurance - owner, stay of adjudication, continued, probation, fined \$575.  
Shane Anthony Ross, 38, Hokah, Minn., hands-free law violation, fined \$125.  
Floyd Thomas, Jr., 18, Onalaska, Wis., speeding, fined \$135.

**HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF**  
Debby Sue Burmester, 57, Brownsville, Minn., dog bite - vaccinations not current, fined \$75.  
Noa Anthony Ebata, 18, Houston, Minn., speeding, fined \$125.  
Tyler Keith Fisher, 21, La Crosse, Wis., speeding, fined \$275, driving after suspension, fined \$200.  
Kevin Lee Monroe, 59, Waukon, Iowa, driving after suspension, fined \$275.  
Damien Scott Reinsvold, 38, De Soto, Wis., operate motor vehicle after license suspension/revocation/cancellation, fined \$275, no proof of insurance - driver, fined \$200, seat belt required, fined \$25.  
Abel Thomas, 31, Brooklyn, N.Y., speeding, fined \$135.

**HOKAH POLICE DEPT.**  
Jaquil Lamont Madison, 26, La Crosse, Wis., speeding, fined \$125, driving without a valid license, fined \$100.  
Christopher Lee Smithson, 36, La Crosse, Wis., driving after revocation, fined \$275.  
Matthew Edward Yeager, 28, Holmen, Wis., hands-free law violation, fined \$125.

**LA CRESCENT POLICE DEPT.**  
Wyatt James Skadson, 17, La Crescent, Minn., speeding, fined \$115.  
Mickayla Ann Soback, 21, Winona, Minn., speeding, fined \$135.  
Jeffery Donald Stelick, Onalaska, Wis., theft, 5 days local confinement, fined \$155.

**SPRING GROVE POLICE DEPT.**  
Wyatt Harley Dahle, 19, Mapleview, Minn., driving after suspension, fined \$275.  
Carter Russell Holty, 19, Spring Grove, Minn., operate vehicle with expired registration, fined \$105.  
Douglas Dale Nolte, 50, Denver, Iowa, parking violation, fined \$22.  
Darlene Renee Oakes, 63, Spring Grove, Minn., fail to shovel sidewalk, fined \$200.  
Shane Francis Pitkin, 46, Cedar Falls, Iowa, speeding, fined \$115.

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
Boston Anders Gilberg, 21, Black River Falls, Wis., fishing - extra line, fined \$125.  
Nathan Richard Travis, 31, Minneapolis, Minn., hunting - transportation of firearms - loaded firearm, fined \$175.

**March 11-18**  
**MINN. STATE PATROL**  
Breanna Marie Ask, 26, St. Paul, Minn., speeding, fined \$115.  
Desirae Debra Brainard, 22, Spring Grove, Minn., expired registration, fined \$105.  
Caitlin Rose Coxsworth, 19, Houston, Minn., driving after revocation, fined \$275.  
Morgan Pauline Olson, 19, Westby, Wis., speeding, fined \$135.  
Sandra Ann Utke, 63, Caledonia, Minn., seat belt required, fined \$100.  
George Allen Walther, 72, Hokah, Minn., seat belt required, fined \$100.

**HOUSTON COUNTY SHERIFF**  
Emmy Elizabeth Carlson, 18, Hokah, Minn., liquor - consumption by persons under 21, fined

\$175.  
Harlee Rae Dubois, 26, Houston, Minn., unlawful passing, fined \$275, speeding, fined \$150.  
Noa Anthony Ebata, 18, Houston, Minn., speeding, fined \$125.  
Dylon Gerhard Erickson, 29, Caledonia, Minn., violate limited drivers license conditions - license not in possession, fined \$175, no insurance - owner violation, fined \$200.  
Jessica Marie Henderson, 30, Hiawatha, Iowa, speeding, fined \$135.  
Tyler James Morrison, 29, Rochester, Minn., driving after revocation, fined \$275, no insurance - driver violation, fined \$200.

**CALEDONIA POLICE DEPT.**  
Dylon Gerhard Erickson, 29, Caledonia, Minn., vehicle registration/permit/plates required, fined \$105, operate vehicle with expired registration, fined \$105.  
Jeffrey George Frohock, 60, La Crosse, Wis., driving after revocation, fined \$275.  
Shane Steven McCabe, 26, Mabel, Minn., DWI, probation,

**PUBLIC RECORD**  
Continued on page 14

**March 8-April 5 ENTER TODAY**

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To Enter Go To <https://www.hometownsource.com/>

**Tax QUIZ**

QUIZ RUN DATES:  
January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021 - April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021

Take The Quiz Now For A Chance To Win A Local Prize!  
<https://www.hometownsource.com/>

## Introducing Houston County's new assessor

Submitted by Luke Onstad  
Houston Co. Assessor



**Submitted**

Luke Onstad is pictured here with his dog. Onstad is the new Houston County Assessor.

increase will be issued to buildings only.

By issuing the increase to buildings only the land will help to cushion some of the increase to a property's overall estimated market value. Meaning the building value will increase by the percent of increase but the property's total value will not be that same percentage. The areas and increases for 2022 building values required from the state sales study are:

- These increases are again based on the states sales study and are required by the state.
- Spring Grove City – 15%
- Brownsville City – 14%
- Houston City – 17%
- Money Creek – 20%
- Hokah Twp – 11%
- La Crescent Twp – 11%
- Caledonia Twp – 5%
- Houston Twp – 5%
- Mound Prairie Twp – 5%
- Eitzen City – 5%

The state requires all are values to be set by January 2nd of each year. These values are sent to the County Auditor to determine the tax rate for each city and township.

What determines the tax rate? The tax rate is determined by taking the money needed or requested by your city, township, school district and the county. The auditor/treasurer then takes the total amount of money needed and divides that by the assessor's total estimated market value for each city and township to determine the rate for each. The estimated market value of your property determines the amount of tax you owe.

The state has very strict laws on the date property values have to be set each year and when and what type of changes can be made at certain times.

The only changes that are allowed for the following year's values without board approval after January 2nd are things such as: measuring errors, entry errors into system, and lost homestead if property indeed qualifies.

The general rule for changes is: if you can measure it and prove the change it can be changed. Most people do not realize our values for the following year are set on

January 2nd of each year. What this means is the values we just set in January 2021 are the values 2022 taxes will be based off of. Each spring when you receive your tax statement included will be the valuation notice for the values set on January 2nd this is the value that next year's taxes will be based on.

The state has strict timelines on when and how to appeal your estimated market value and when to question the tax rate or amount of tax. On your valuation notices that you will receive in the beginning of April with your tax statement this year it will list the time and date of your city or township's meeting.

If you feel the estimated market value on your valuation notice is wrong or incorrect, (meaning your house would not sell for that on the open market when advertised to the public) the first step is to call the assessor's office to go over the value. The second step, is to attend the local board meeting for your city or township. The time and date is listed on the notice. Some cities and townships do not have meetings and these are called open book. That means our office is the place to call. The third step, is to attend the county board of appeals meeting in June that is printed on the notice as well.

This year, the county board will be held on June 15 at 6 p.m. It is required by the state that a person follow the steps in order for appeals. Step one: call the assessor's office, step two: attend your local board meeting (if your township or city has one), and step three: attend the county board in June. The April meetings are for value questions only, not appeals. Another change the county has been required to make is the implementation of pasture land in our rural areas. This change will be taking place over the next 2 year. You may or may not see this change on your valuation statement this spring. Most everyone will see this change by next spring's notices.

In summary, here is what to look for when you receive your 2021 tax statement and 2022 valuation notice this spring. First, the statement and notice will come in the same envelope so be sure to locate both of them. Don't be alarmed if your property taxes are paid through escrow. You will receive a statement but your escrow is still intact. Second, look over your valuation notice. If you are in an area that received an increase you will see the change in value. If you are an area that received the pasture change you will see that as well.

Make sure to look and the class of your property and if it has changed and you feel it shouldn't have been be sure to call the assessor's office. If your property is homestead be sure homestead it is stated on the statement.

A quick note on homestead credit: the higher your home value, the lower the credit. Homestead credit is designed to cancel itself out once a home's value reaches \$418,000. So if your home value increase the homestead credit will decrease. Be sure to make note of your city or township's local board

By Jordan Gerard  
Editor, The Caledonia Argus

The snow has melted and the greenery is popping up all around Houston County, but there's something else mixed in with the spring foliage: garbage.

It's typical to see trash in ditches after a long winter, and volunteer groups are seen in April and May generously cleaning up roadways. However, on County Road 32 just east of Caledonia, the situation is a lot more serious.

The Houston County Sheriff's Office has taken a complaint of illegal dumping on that road this year and seven complaints last year, not to mention a few more from previous years. The residents are done seeing full garbage bags, garbage bags full of baby diapers, 45 tires, multiple deer carcasses, oil cans and recently, a carcass of a dead lamb in the ditches and down a hill that hovers above a trout stream.

One resident (who preferred to

remain anonymous) told the *Argus* it's not just their property that ends up as a dumping ground. It also happens by the gun range or in the quarry.

Last year, residents worked to clean up the mess with the help of Mayville Township and Houston County, who allowed residents to deposit the garbage at the proper dump site. Now, it's happening again.

"Repeatedly this year. We've put up signs, 'No Trespassing.' Put six up and there's one left," the resident said. "Cameras are put up. It's probably happening to other people too ... We're going to stay on it. Someone is going to be the one to get caught."

Houston County Sheriff Mark Inglett said the complaints seemed to have increase over the last year.

"There's really no excuse for dumping trash in the ditch," he said.

Inglett added most Houston County cities have designated drop off sites for garbage and recycling,

and most are open at least one day of the week and on the weekends.

Inglett added his office worked with property owners four years ago and put signs up, as it's been an ongoing issue for a long time.

"We're always looking for that type of conduct on patrol," he said.

It's difficult to catch them in the act, though, as headlights at night can alert them. If anyone sees this type of behavior, Inglett said it should be reported with as much identifying information as possible, such as vehicle description and license plate numbers.

Not only is it disheartening to see the garbage dumped on the roadside, but it's also a potential danger to wildlife and waterways.

"I think it poses a lot of potential harm to our wildlife. When you dump all kinds of things there, chemicals, motor oil ... we have a proper place to dispose of it," he said. "Anytime you've got garbage, chemicals like that leaching into the ground, it affects the waterway."

## Stop illegal dumping on Co. Rd. 32

## HOUSTON OHV

Continued from page 1

nighttime standard is 50 decibels. Site 2 is located in the northeast corner of the site.

The state standard decibel levels are 60/65 dBA (A-weighted decibels) and 55/50 dBA, which the study cites equal to conversational speech and a library, respectively.

It was also noted that there was "no clear indication that noise levels significantly change from season to season." The study also cited vegetation, if high, wide and dense enough, can also decrease noise.

The city ordered another noise study from Acoustics OHV LLC, based in Random Lake, Wisconsin that will use eight OHVs on the trail at one time to further measure noise.

Another concern was the erosion on the hillside. Many residents noted the silty, clay loam soils and sandy soils that are a feature of the bluffs in Houston County. Many also remember the historic flood of 2007 where landslides occurred along State Highway 16, just east of Houston, and when the city was threatened by Root River levels not previously seen.

In the process of creating the trail map in 2015, the

U.S. Forest Service's enterprise unit "Trails Unlimited LLC," noted several concerns about the soil types. The silty, clay loam soils and sandy soils are "weak soils for frequent traffic."

The document, *Design and Layout of Houston OHV Trail*, is essentially a manual of how to build the trail according to the map and according to terrain constraints. The document was authored by Jerry D. Barrow, a retired civil engineer with 32 years of experience with the U.S. Forest Service, six years in private practice and 30 years in trails. He has degrees in civil engineering and forestry.

Barrow gives several recommendations, techniques and equipment types in order to harden trail tread, reduce erosion and control water. He also states the trail construction is "going to require much greater skilled equipment operators with expertise," and that there will be a "higher construction cost."

*Editor's note: This story is part two of a longer series on the proposed Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) trail in Houston. Stay tuned for more information.*



meetings if you plan to attend.

Also a reminder, both your tax statement and valuation notice will appear on the Beacon Schneider website. Remember the valuation statement represents the value a property would sell for if advertised and sold. Please call the assessor's office at 507-725-5801 with any value or classification questions!

### Commonly Asked Questions

1. WHEN DOES MY STATEMENT COME IN THE MAIL? Statements are mailed by March 31st of each year.
2. DOES MY TAX STATEMENT AND VALUATION NOTICE COME TOGETHER? Yes, it comes in the same envelope.
3. WHEN ARE MY TAXES DUE? 1ST half is due May 15th and 2nd half is due October 15th if you have Commercial, Residential or Seasonal property. Second half for Agricultural property is due on November 15th. The due dates are listed on each stub so they can be easily reviewed.
4. WHAT IF I HAVE AN ESCROW WITH THE BANK? You

will still receive a Tax Statement (it will note that an escrow may be paying your property taxes)

5. WHAT DO I LOOK FOR ON MY VALUATION NOTICE? Review the value of your property. Is it correct? Was there a change made in your area in home or property sales? Do you have pastureland on your property? If so, this could change the value.

6. IS MY CLASSIFICATION CORRECT? You should be able to see on your statement if you are classified as homestead or non-homestead. This can make a significant difference in your property taxes. Please note: The higher the value is on your home, the lower your homestead exclusion will be. If the value of your home increases, your homestead exclusion will decrease. Please call the Assessor's office if you have any questions regard your property values. (507-725-5801)

7. WHAT IF I HAVE AN ISSUE WITH MY VALUES? Follow the THREE STEP PROCESS to appeal listed above and mark your calen-

dar to attend the meetings listed on your Valuation Notice!

8. WHAT IF I DO NOT RECEIVE MY STATEMENT? You may have in incorrect address listed on the County records if you recently moved or you may have signed up to receive E-Notices. Call the Auditor-Treasurer's office if you have any questions. (507-725-5815)

9. WHAT IF I MISPLACE MY STATEMENT? Go to website: beaconschneidercorp.com. The Tax Statement and Valuation Notice can be found near the bottom of the page. Both can be easily printed. Your name or parcel ID number can be used to perform the search.

10. HOW DO I PAY MY TAXES? Place in drop-box by West Entrance at the Historic Courthouse Building, in person, by postal mail or go online: <https://www.co.houston.mn.us>. Other drop off locations include Merchants Bank, ESB Banking, or Bremer Bank. \*\*PLEASE ENSURE TAX STUBS ACCOMPANY YOUR TAX PAYMENT(S).

### City of Caledonia Summer Youth Baseball and Softball Registration Now Open

The City of Caledonia's Summer Recreation Youth Baseball and Softball Program (ages 9U – 14U) registration window is now open. You may pick up and complete a registration form at City Hall during regular business hours. You can also print off forms at [www.caledoniamn.gov](http://www.caledoniamn.gov) and return them to City Hall at your convenience. The deadline for submitting registrations is Friday, April 16. Fees are \$55.00 per child. The first week of league games will be determined by the Coulee Region Sports League at a later date. If you have any questions about the upcoming season, please contact Program Manager Theresa Huff at [parkrec@caledoniamn.gov](mailto:parkrec@caledoniamn.gov). Please follow our Facebook page at Caledonia Summer Recreation Program to stay up to date with all youth baseball and softball news.

**ANNUAL FLUORESCENT and HID BULB COLLECTION**

**SATURDAY APRIL 17, 2021**

**From 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at all Houston County Drop Sites.**

**FREE DISPOSAL OF 10 BULBS FOR HOUSTON COUNTY RESIDENTS AND SMALL BUSINESSES**

Additional bulbs  
**18 to 85 cents per bulb.**

**This event is sponsored by:**  
**Houston County**  
**Xcel Energy**  
**MiEnergy**

**Caledonia, Eitzen & Spring Grove Cities**

**Call Houston County Environmental Services**  
**at (507) 725-5800 or visit:**  
<https://www.co.houston.mn.us/departments/environmental-services/>

*The Joy of Easter*

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*  
John 3:16

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